

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-22 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of Claim 7. Claim 7 has have been canceled. Claim 9 has been amended to define the term “fine particles.”

Support for the amendment to Claim 9 can be found in the present specification on page 20, fourth to the last line, whereas support for new Claims 21 and 22 can be found on page 24, second and third paragraphs, respectively.

Objection to Claims 9, 10 and 18

Claims 9, 10 and 18 have been objected to because of a formality. It is believed that the amendment to Claim 9 renders this objection moot.

Rejection of Claims 1-12 and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) and Allowable Claims 13-15

Claims 1-12 and 16-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,475,696 to Majumdar et al. (“Majumdar”).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the following reasons.

Claim 1 of the present application, as amended, recites “an ink-jet recording medium comprising a support having disposed thereon at least one colorant-receiving layer, wherein an undercoat layer containing an inorganic laminar compound having an aspect ratio of 100 or more is provided under the colorant-receiving layer, and/or a back-coat layer containing an inorganic laminar compound having an aspect ratio of 100 or more is provided on a surface opposite to a surface of the support having the colorant-receiving layer; and wherein the colorant-receiving

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layer contains a water-soluble resin.” The colorant-receiving layer of the present application contains a water-soluble resin.

Majumdar was relied upon to teach an image member comprising an image layer and a support. The Office Action asserted that the support comprises a paper sheet and a layer comprising an inorganic particle such as mica and a resin such as polyvinyl alcohol.

However, Majumdar does not teach or disclose that the image layer contains a water-soluble resin.

Therefore, Majumdar does not anticipate the presently claimed invention, and it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) be withdrawn.

Furthermore, Majumdar does not render the presently claimed invention obvious. Majumdar discloses a support comprising a layer, which comprises an inorganic particle and a polyvinyl alcohol, but does not provide any suggestion or motivation to include the polyvinyl alcohol into a colorant-receiving layer as recited in amended Claim 1, with a reasonable expectation of success. The present invention accomplishes a suppression of curling, which may be caused by the addition of water-soluble resin (*See* page 3 of the specification, third full paragraph). However, Majumdar does not disclose or suggest a problem of curling or its suppression by the constitution of the presently claimed invention.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

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Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,



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